

PATENT

Serial No. 09/670,129

Amendment in Reply to Final Office Action of April 26, 2004

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application and entry of the present amendment are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-2, 5-6 and 10-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter, such as having no output being recited in claim 10. The Examiner suggested combining claims 10-12 to overcome this rejection to claims 10-16. In response, claims 1-2, 5-6 and 11-12 have been canceled without prejudice, and claim 10 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion by adding the feature of claims 11-12. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection to claims 10-16 under 35 U.S.C. §101 is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-2, 5-6 and 10-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. By means of the present amendment, claims 1-2, 5-6 and 11-12 have been canceled without prejudice, and claim 10 has been amended for clarification. It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 10 particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection to claims 10-16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second

PATENT

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paragraph, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 10 would be allowable if the above rejections are overcome and the features of claims 11-12 are included therein. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that claims 10-12 include allowable features. By means of the present amendment, claims 11-12 have been canceled without prejudice, and claim 10 has been amended to include the features of claims 11-12.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 10 is in allowable form, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 13-16 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claim 10.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any informalities remain, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned in order to expedite allowance.

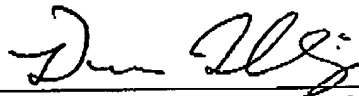
PATENT

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Amendment in Reply to Final Office Action of April 26, 2004

Please charge any fee deficiencies and credit any overpayments
to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

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